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Letter dated 15 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to presidential statement S/PRST/2011/19 on security sector reform, in which the Security Council requested that I submit, by early 2013, an assessment of the United Nations support for security sector reform, including efforts in Africa, and make recommendations on how best to strengthen the United Nations comprehensive approach to security sector reform.

Currently, security sector reform management activities are being conducted in peacekeeping operations, special political missions and other settings, as mandated by the Security Council or recommended by the General Assembly. Security sector governance remains one of the most rapidly expanding areas of the United Nations, which is also reflected in numerous resolutions of the Council.

Since July 2012, the Security Sector Reform Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has organized a number of consultations, in compliance with the request of the Security Council. These consultations have taken into account the linkages between United Nations assistance and conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The views of relevant United Nations organs and actors have also been taken into account in the process of preparing the assessment.

The initial consultations included the inter-agency senior security sector reform practitioners' workshop held in July 2012; the High-level Panel on the Challenges and Opportunities for Security Sector Reform in East Africa and the second High-level Forum on African Perspectives on Security Sector Reform, both held in October 2012; a high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform held in Geneva in December 2012; and a high-level United Nations practitioners' meeting held in Geneva in March 2013. Many of those events were hosted by or organized in partnership with Member States and regional organizations, including the African Union. I have also sought the views of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose most recent annual report was released in September 2012.

In addition, the Secretariat is now seeking to consult a broad range of stakeholders, with an emphasis on African experiences and the lessons learned from the elaboration of the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform, which was adopted by African Heads of State and Government at the African Union summit held in January 2013.

Furthermore, the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force developed its first set of five integrated technical guidance notes on security

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sector reform, launched in December 2012. Some of the core elements contained in the guidance notes will form the basis for my comprehensive security sector reform assessment.

In order to provide the Security Council with a full overview of the rapidly developing elements highlighted in the above-mentioned presidential statement, and in the light of the need to conduct further in-depth consultations within the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its field counterparts, it is expected that my report to the Council containing the assessment will be issued by 30 September 2013. I therefore request an extension of the report time frame. The Secretariat would be ready to provide the Council with an update at a mutually agreed time before the revised deadline.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon